

OGC Has Reviewed

ER 4-3483

The Honorable Alexander Wiley
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Wiley:

This is in reply to your request of 3 July 1953 for comments on S.J. Resolution 96.

International telecommunications are a powerful instrument of national policy. However, the technical and engineering aspects of the problem have to be closely integrated with the over-all needs of national security and tied to over-all policy, planning, and guidance. Recent studies conducted for the National Security Council by the Telecommunications Advisor to the President with the assistance of the principal communications organizations of the government, pointed up the dependence of the technical problems of telecommunications upon broad national policy decisions.

The report of the President's Communications Policy Board submitted in March 1951, considered many of the interrelated national and international problems inherent in the present telecommunications situation, and the report of the President's Committee on International Information Activities recently completed stresses the importance of top level policy control and guidance of all instruments of foreign information. New scientific techniques, which some believe capable of transoceanic transmission of television programs, should be evaluated in terms of the urgent needs of improved international communications for national security and other national policy purposes. They should also be judged in terms of the limited number of television receivers in use in foreign countries and the problems of different technical standards of transmission.

Current and planned future studies being made at the direction of the National Security Council are intended to improve our international telecommunications, to render them more effective as an instrument of national policy and to speed the utilization of new techniques to the maximum possible extent. These studies should be encouraged to proceed at the maximum possible rate. The creation of another commission to deal with a specific portion of the total telecommunications problem but impinging upon the responsibilities of the Departments of State and Defense, the International Information Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission, as brought together at the National Security Council, might retard rather than accelerate the exploitation of new techniques of international telecommunications.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

OSI/RLC:jb (17 Jul 53)

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WILLIAM H. HARRIS, JR.
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